

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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O R 171755Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6727

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBSSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4996

USCINCEUR AND CINCUSNAVEUR FOR POLADS ALSO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, SP, SS

SUBJECT: LOCAL REACTION TO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

REF: RABAT 4970

1. KING'S SPEECH. KING IN HIS OCTOBER 16 SPEECH MADE STRONG
AND EMOTIONAL APPEAL TO PEOPLE TO SUPPORT MARCH. GOM RESPOND-
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ING RAPIDLY TO KING'S

CALL. ASSEMBLY POINTS FOR "VOLUNTEERS"
HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AND AT LEAST THOSE IN MAJOR CITIES FUNCTIONING

AND ACTIVE ALL DAY. WHILE SOME DEMONSTRATIONS OF SUPPORT LAST
EVENING FOLLOWING SPEECH WERE PROBABLY OFFICIALLY INSPIRED,
OTHERS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN SPONTANEOUS. OUR INITIAL IMPRESSION
IS THAT, FOR MOMENT, THERE GENUINE POPULAR SUPPORT FOR PROPOSAL.
SOME MOVEMENT SOUTHWARD OF CIVILIANS IN TRUCKS HAS BEEN DETECTED
ON THE ROAD BETWEEN RABAT AND CASABLANCA, BUT NOTHING
SIZEABLE.

2. LEADERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES WERE PRESENT ON PODIUM DURING
KING'S SPEECH BUT ONLY TWO PARTIES HAVE PUBLICLY REACTED SO FAR.
LONG-SILENT UNFP LEADER, ABDULLAH IBRAHIM, PUBLISHED STATEMENT
IMMEDIATELY CARRIED BY OFFICIAL MAP NEWS AGENCY CALLING KING'S
PROPOSAL "ACTION WHICH RESPONDS FULLY TO NECESSITIES" OF SITUATION.
STATEMENT BY MAHJOUBI AHARDANE OF POPULAR MOVEMENT SAYS THAT
MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY HAVE ALREADY SIGNED UP FOR MARCH. DUE
LATENESS OF SPEECH, ORGANS OF OTHER MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES WERE
APPARENTLY UNABLE TO INCLUDE REACTION IN OCTOBER 17 EDITIONS BUT
PROBABLY WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO DECIDE REACTIONS. UNFP
SUPPORT IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF ITS CLOSE AFFILIATIONS WITH MOROCCO'S
BIGGEST LABOR UNION, UMT, MAJORITY OF WHOSE MEMBERSHIP CENTERED
IN CASABLANCA.

3. FONOFF SOURCE INFORMED US OCTOBER 17 THAT STATE VISIT OF
BULGARIA'S TODOR ZHIVKOV, SCHEDULED BEGIN OCTOBER 19, HAS BEEN
"POSTPONED" DUE KING'S PREOCCUPATION. OF POSSIBLE INTEREST IS
DATT REPORT THAT KING SUMMONED TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR
TO MARRAKECH FOR OCTOBER 17 DINNER DISCUSSION.

4. ICJ OPINION AND FACT FINDING COMMITTEE REPORT. OCTOBER 17
OPPOSITION PRESS CONTINUED ITS ATTACKS ON FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE
REPORT (RABAT 6709) AND STRUCK OUT AT ICJ ADVISORY OPINION.
OCTOBER 17 L'OPINION (ISTIQLAL) CALLS FACT FINDING REPORT
"CALAMITY." EVERY WORD IN REPORT POSES "UNSPEAKABLE GRAVITY"
TO MOROCCAN CAUSE. AS FOR ICJ OPINION, L'OPINION SAYS ATTITUDE
OF COURT "CONTRADICTORY" AND THAT "POLITICAL ELEMENT" SEEMS TO
HAVE "CONFUSED" COURT. ACCUSED IT OF USING "QUIBBLING LEGALISM" AND
"FALSE INTERPRETATION" AND OF "DISTORTING HISTORY."
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SAYS IT "INFLUENCED" BY "COLONIALIST INTEREST." AL MOUHARRIR
(USFP) OCTOBER 17 SAID THAT WHILE OPINION "ASLITTED" GOM'S LIGHTS,
IT LEFT DOOR OPEN FOR MISCHIEF BY "ADVERSARIES' MANEOERS."

5. CAMPAIGN AGAINST ALGERIA, F POLISARIO. OCTOBER 16 L'OPINION
CARRIED JNRSTKDCUNIHTFKHWBBDLFY
XXTVZMTLA#DERNIER HEURE,
ALLEGING THAT BETWEEN JULY 2-4, 1975, BOUMEDIENNE AND SOVIETS

REACHED AGREEMENT ON PLAN TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO F POLISARIO. PLAN ALLEGEDLY INVOLVES SOVIET ADVISORS IN TINDOUF, SOVIET ARMS, TRAINING, AND EVENTUAL GRANTING OF NAVAL BASES TO USSR IN AN INDEPENDENT SAHARA. ARTICLE SAYS BOUTEFLIKA UNAWARE OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS WHEN HE NEGOTIATED JULY 4 ACCORD WITH GOM AND AS RESULT HE IN TROUBLE.

6. ANTI-US THEMES. PPS (COMMUNIST) ORGAN AL BAYANE CARRIED LONG LEAD ARTICLE IN OCTOBER 16 ISSUE ACCUSING US OF SUPPORTING SPANISH IN SAHARA IN RETURN FOR RIGHTS TO BUILD TWO BASES IN CANARIES. SAYS US WOULD ABANDON ITS NEUTRALITY QUICKLY IF GOM SHOULD FOR EXAMPLE ABANDON ITS MODERATION ON MIDDLE EAST. ARTICLE ACCUSES US OF PREFERRING INDEPENDENT SAHARA SO AS TO OBTAIN EASIER ACCESS TO PHOSPHATE AND DEPRIVE MOROCCO OF "MONOPOLY." AL MOUHARRIR OCTOBER 14 ALSO ACCUSED US OF INTEREST IN INSTALLING "TWO GIGANTIC BASES" IN CANARIES AND PREFERRING WEAK INDEPENDENT SAHARA FOR ECONOMIC INTERESTS.

7. COMMENT. DIFFICULT JUDGE DEPTH OF POPULAR SUPPORT FOR MARCH, BUT INITIAL RESPONSE IMPRESSIVE. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE REACTION OF MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTIES, ISTIQLAL AND USFP, WHICH WILL BE UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE TO SHOW THEIR PATIOTISM EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE APPARENTLY NOT IN ON KING'S DECISION.

8. KING'S AIM SEEMS TO BE TO SKIRT BOTH MILITARY CONFLICT AND FURTHER DEBATE IN UN, WHERE HIS CASE HAS BEEN WEAKENED. F POLISARIO VERY MUCH ON MOROCCAN MINDS THESE DAYS, AND WARNING IN KING'S SPEECH THAT MARCH INTO SAHARA WOULD BE DEFENDED AGAINST NON-SPANISH "FOREIGN ELEMENTS" UNDOUBTEDLY AIMED EQUALLY AT ALGERIA AND F POLISARIO.
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